

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing preliminary amendment to facilitate prosecution of the application. The amendments to the specification correct reference citations, remove hyper-link, and add references to the SEQ ID NOs for the sequences shown in Figures 4 and 5 and submitted with Applicants Sequence Listing filed on February 23, 2005.

Amendments to the claim clarify the syntax of the claims and remove non-elected sequences. Thus, claims 1 and 4 are amended to describe an isolated nucleic acid molecule for detection of *H. capsulatum* or an active case of histoplasmosis that include: (a) SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6; (b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6; (c) a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6 consisting of 21 or more consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6; and (d) a fragment of the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, or SEQ ID NO: 6 consisting of 21 or more consecutive nucleotides of the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6. Claim 2 is amended to describe that the fragment may range up to 25 nucleotides. New claim 27 describes a kit including isolated nucleic acid molecules for detection of *H. capsulatum* that include isolated nucleic acid molecules of claims 1 and 4.

The amendments are supported by the specification. For example, regarding the amendment to claim 2, the specification describes that primers that range from 10 to 25 nucleotides in length (e.g., see the specification at page 13, lines 1-3). Also, regarding the amendment to claim 4, it is described in the specification that the chitin synthase intron DNA sequences may be used for the detection of an active case of histoplasmosis (e.g., see the specification at pages 18-22).

Accordingly no new matter is added by the amendment of the specification or the claims.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, each of the claims remaining in the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (336) 747-7541 to discuss any questions relating to the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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